

# LINKAGES

CREATE INTENTIONAL LINKS TO NEIGHBORHOODS



TEMPE CANAL, SOUTH OF UNIVERSITY

The few places where neighborhood streets contact the canal banks could be developed as rest stops with shade and seating.



VISUAL LINKAGES



COPPERPOINT DEVELOPMENT, CONSOLIDATED CANAL AND BROWN ROAD

Encourage private developments to connect to the canal banks and other pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The Copperpoint Development at Brown and Stapley has been designed to take advantage of its canal frontage. The park-like feeling of this landscape is a good model for future planning.

Support neighborhood initiatives that will lead to a more open attitude towards the canals and pathways. Recognize that even a modest visual connection to the system helps create a sense that the pathways are a part of City life.



# LINKAGES

## HIGHLIGHT LINKS TO PARKS

The Multi-Use Path system already links to several City parks. These connections can be accentuated or underscored by artwork.

- Concrete imprints or sandblasted imagery in pathways leading to individual parks
- Earthworks/playful landscape environments adjacent to Multi-Use Paths that encourage path users to enter the park
- Water fountains visible and easily accessible from path
- Artist-designed ramadas, benches
- Custom Mesa bike racks

**RECOMMENDATION:** Commission design team artists to work with engineers and consultants contracted to design Multi-Use Paths. These artists would be asked to develop art concepts integral to the overall path design, with special consideration for linkages and signature destinations.



EXISTING RAMADA AT PARK ON MESA DRIVE



LINKAGE TO PARKS CONCEPT

# LINKAGES

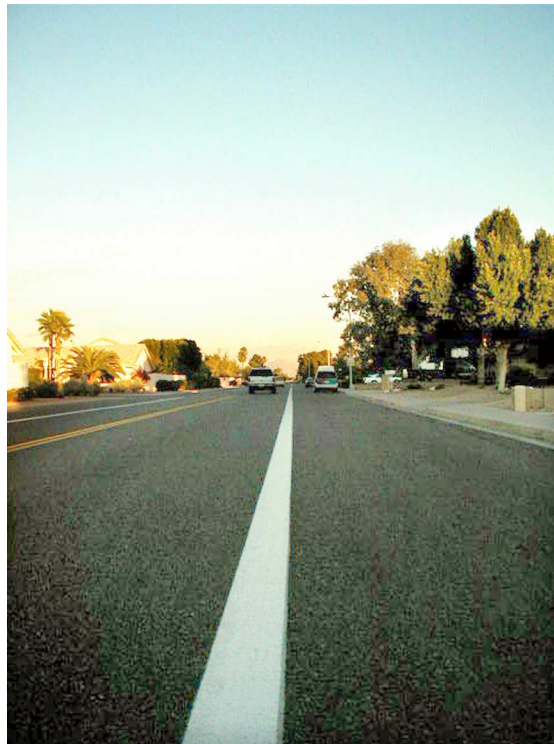
## HIGHLIGHT LINKS TO SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND RECREATION CENTERS

School-age children are likely to commute via bicycle. Highlighting the connections between Multi-Use Paths and Mesa schools will help to promote neighborhood connectivity to schools. Increased awareness of school-to-neighborhood links will increase usage and safety of these routes.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Consider developing sculptural median guards for school crossings. This concept is also being recommended for places where the canal path crosses roadways with raised medians.



**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Consider adding a detail to the standard bike lane stripe that signifies school usage. The added detail could be a reflective decal. Even a very simple shape would increase safety and identity. Any artistic details developed for the off-road Multi-Use Path can serve as a pilot for roadway stripe modification.



**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Encourage East Valley Institute of Technology and Mesa Community College to develop Multi-Use Paths that are visible from surface streets. The City could provide curb cuts or other sidewalk modifications that would LINK campus paths to existing sidewalks and bike lanes. The Master Plan for Multi-Use Paths for MCC is under way.





# LINKAGES

## LINK TO MULTI-USE PATHS WITH WATER-DELIVERY SYSTEM



IRRIGATION DITCH PARALLELS LEHI ROAD

Wherever possible, pedestrian and bicycle corridors should parallel irrigation ditches and lateral canals. The City should take every opportunity to reinforce the logic of both systems and recreate the historical role of irrigation laterals as they traverse the less-developed parts of the City

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Plan for bicycle lanes and routes to follow open laterals wherever possible.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Reintroduce shade trees along lateral ditches wherever possible.



LATERAL IRRIGATION DITCH, LEHI



# LINKAGES

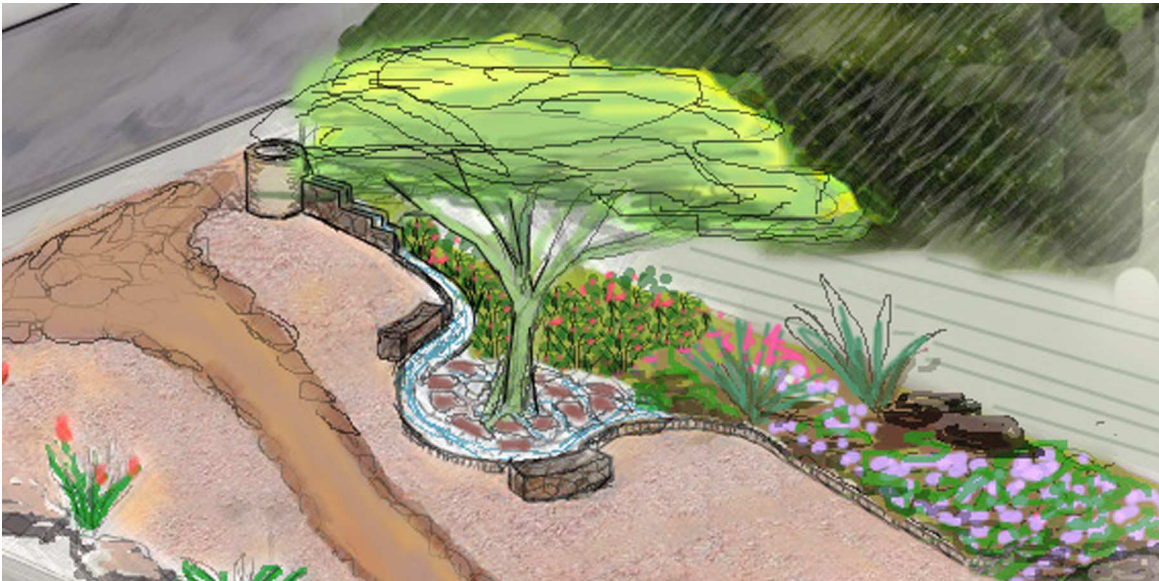
## EXTEND THE WATER LINK

The City should extend the water link to easements that have underground canal segments. The City is hoping to develop underground canal easements as Multi-Use Paths in the future. Easements such

as Eureka Canal and Tempe Canal appear as large alleyways, with little or no landscaping. The City should incorporate standpipe oasis concept as a method of irrigating landscape along the easement.



EUREKA CANAL EASEMENT



STANDPIPE OASIS CONCEPT

### RECOMMENDATION:

- Re-establish public access to canal banks where linkage is desirable.
- Remove masonry wall currently blocking linkage between Eureka Canal and Tempe Canal.



EUREKA CANAL, AERIAL VIEW

**RECOMMENDATION:** Tap into existing standpipes to create modest rest stops along the underground canal easements.



# LINKAGES

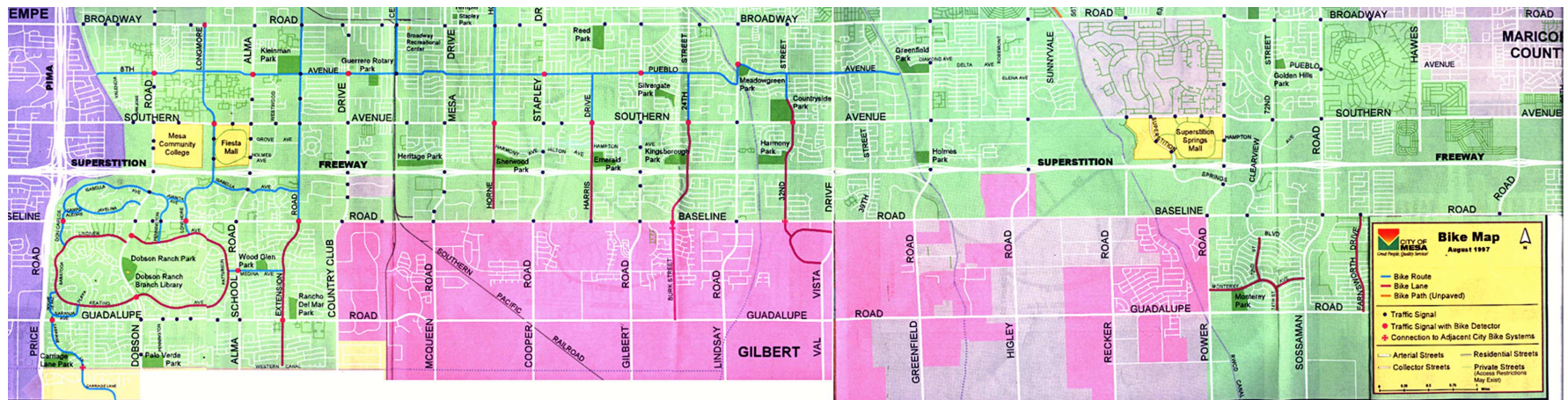
## US 60 EAST-WEST CONNECTOR

The US 60 is an important east-west transportation corridor. The 18-mile drainage easement on the north side of the freeway could provide a much needed connector for Mesa Community College, Desert Samaritan Hospital, adjoining offices, Fiesta Mall, Superstition Springs Mall, and several parks.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Develop the drainage easement on the north side of US 60 as a Multi-Use Path Corridor.



US 60 DRAINAGE EASEMENT



US 60 - SUPERSTITION FREEWAY

# LINKAGES

## LINK TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



BIKE / BUS CONNECTION

Commuter use of the Multi-Use Paths can be bolstered if places of employment have shower rooms and employee lockers. Employers that provide these types of amenities can be recognized and rewarded for contributing to a healthier Mesa.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Create ways to REWARD businesses and institutions that take steps to encourage bicycle and pedestrian commuting. The awards could take the form of advertising on mural walls, buses, water bills or other City publications.

Initiatives that could merit recognition include:

- Locating bicycle racks in close proximity to business entrances
- Providing showers and lockers for employees/students
- Designing intentional connections to bicycle/pedestrian pathways

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Advertise the fact that the bus/bike link is a viable way to use public transportation. Images such as this could be used for Mesa Markers (see Gateways). Continue efforts to have bus pull-out lanes wherever possible and artist-designed bus shelters where recommended.

Create anticipation and support for the future light rail system by illustrating how bike-friendly the light rail will be.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Include highly visible Mesa bike racks at all bus stops to cultivate the "Lock and Ride" alternative.



# SUMMARY

The canals are a vital infrastructure, bringing water into Valley cities for treatment and distribution. They offer a remarkable visual and physical environment particular to the urban desert. The canals also carry an invitation to contemplate the connection between water and life and to reflect on the rich cultural history still in progress on the banks of the Salt River.

Mesa's Canal Pathways are on their way to becoming a significant "Point of Pride" for the City. They provide a unique experience of the City because they do not follow the orthogonal logic of the city streets. Today, the physical character of the canal banks is typically quite barren. Trees that once lined the canal banks have been eliminated to provide easier maintenance access.

Fortunately, the entities that oversee canal bank maintenance, SRP and RWCD, are rethinking their policies and now allowing development that will encourage the recreational use of the canal banks.



EXISTING CONDITION, CONSOLIDATED CANAL

Mesa's timing is perfect for developing the canal paths with amenities. The design and construction of pathways can include shade trees and landscape

features along with paving. The inclusion of desert trees will provide shade and, to some extent, recall the historic charm of the canals.



# SUMMARY



## SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Focus on placemaking and art elements that engage the water and the surrounding environment.

Create places for shade trees and simple seating elements between signature destinations.

The following criteria for public art is excerpted from The Lure of the Local by Lucy Lippard, pp 286-287.

**SPECIFIC** enough to engage people on the level of their own lived experiences, to say something about the place as it is or was or could be.

**COLLABORATIVE** at least to the extent of seeking information, advice and feedback from the community in which the work will be placed.

**GENEROUS** and **OPEN-ENDED** enough to be accessible to a wide variety of people from different classes and cultures, and to different interpretations and tastes. (Titles and captions help a lot here; it seems like pure snobbery-even if unintended- to withhold from the general public the kind of vital information that might be available to the cognoscenti.)

**APPEALING** enough either visually or emotionally to catch the eye and be memorable.

**SIMPLE** and **FAMILIAR** enough, at least on the surface, not to confuse or repel potential viewer-participants.

**LAYERED, COMPLEX** and **UNFAMILIAR** enough to hold peoples' attention once they have been attracted, to make them wonder, and to offer ever deeper experiences and references to those who hang in.

**EVOCATIVE** enough to make people recall related moments, places, and emotions in their own lives.

**PROVOCATIVE** and **CRITICAL** enough to make people think about issues beyond the scope of the work, to call into question superficial assumptions about the place, its history, and its use.nameless storytellers.

*The Lure of the Local, pp 286-287*

# RESOURCES

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